

Cross Cutting Management Issues

Hot Mix Asphalt

WSDOT tracks both the projected and awarded amounts of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) for two reasons. First, the agency projects HMA tons so that asphalt-producing contractors can better anticipate future HMA volumes. This helps private contractors better manage their construction projects and reduce their costs associated with producing HMA, which ultimately results in improved competitive bidding and accurate estimates for construction costs on WSDOT projects. Secondly, WSDOT tracks actual tons awarded to measure the accuracy of the agency's estimation processes.

Actual HMA Awards Below Projections by 36%

WSDOT's HMA forecast projected that from October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, 51 projects would be awarded a combined total of 833,677 tons of HMA. At the end of March, the actual awarded total is 44 projects with 532,695 tons of HMA. Of this total, 32 were from Pre-Existing Funds (PEF) amounting to 367,341 tons, five were Nickel projects amounting to 123,381 tons, six were TPA projects amounting to 37,634 tons, and one was a Sound Transit project with 4,339 tons. The 532,695 tons awarded between October and March represents a difference of 300,982 tons from the projected 833,677 tons. The actual HMA awarded was under the October 2006 projection by 36%.

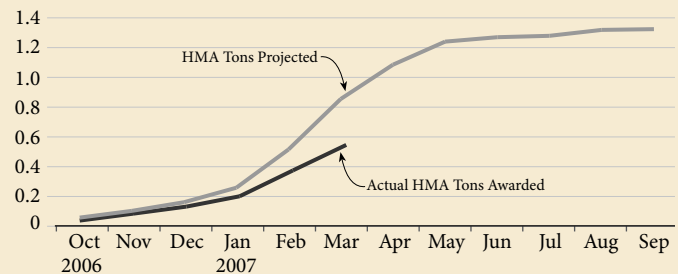
Delayed projects accounted for the reduced amounts of HMA awarded in the six month period. Many of these projects are currently being advertised. WSDOT anticipates that its original estimate of 1,297,601 tons of HMA will be awarded by the end of September, 2007.

Forecasts for Upcoming Construction Season

Because of the seasonal nature of construction industries, HMA amounts increase during the warmer months when more projects are underway compared with the colder months of Fall and Winter. In preparation for the 2007 season, in September 2006, WSDOT forecasted that 1,297,601 tons of HMA would be awarded in contracts throughout the state from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. The 2007 forecast of 1,297,601 tons of HMA is a 7% increase compared to the 2006 forecast of 1,213,985 tons. Increases can be attributed to the addition of delayed projects that were moved into this estimating period as well as the addition of Nickel and TPA projects to the project delivery schedule. WSDOT estimates that HMA tonnage will likely continue to increase in future years as more TPA projects are scheduled to be awarded in the 2007-2009 biennium.

Hot Mix Asphalt Tons Awarded October 2006 - March 2007

Tons in Millions



Data Source: WSDOT Construction Office.

Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement - Projected vs. Actual, 2002-2007

In Tons, October through September of each year¹

Year	Projected	Actual	% Difference
2002	1,373,465 ²	1,364,021	-1%
2003	1,417,126	1,825,442	+29% ³
2004	1,324,218	1,299,377	-2%
2005	1,779,826	1,685,394	-5%
2006	1,213,985	1,126,701	-7%
2007	1,297,601	N/A	N/A

Source: WSDOT Construction Office

¹ Awarded tons are tracked from an October through September calendar year, providing a better measurement of the work schedule and better planning for the paving industry than the calendar year. Construction projects awarded in the fall typically do not begin work until the next year due to inclement weather conditions.

² The projection for 2002 was revised in March 2002 by the Transportation Commission following budget cuts.

³ The 2003 "Nickel" Transportation Funding Package was passed after the projection was made for 2003. WSDOT subsequently awarded five projects from the Nickel funding package with a combined total of 315,285 tons of HMA.



Crews place Hot Mix Asphalt on the I 5 to International Boundary widening project on SR 543.